

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 8, 13, 21, 24, and 36-49 are pending, with claims 8, 13, 21, 36-39, 43-45, and 49 being independent. Claims 6, 11, 14, and 18 are canceled. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 6, 11, 14, and 18 were rejected under at least one of 35 U.S.C. sections 102(e) and 103(a), as allegedly being anticipated by Poore (Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003/0032991) or Schulman et al. (Pat. No. 6,695,885); or allegedly being unpatentable over Haller et al (Pat. No. 6,804,558) in view of Strandberg (Pat. No. 4,886,064). Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, and solely to expedite allowance of the application, claims 6, 11, 14, and 18 have been canceled, thus, these rejections are moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, therefore, all claims are in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicant : Rogers et al.
Serial No. : 10/099,929
Filed : March 13, 2002
Page : 10 of 10

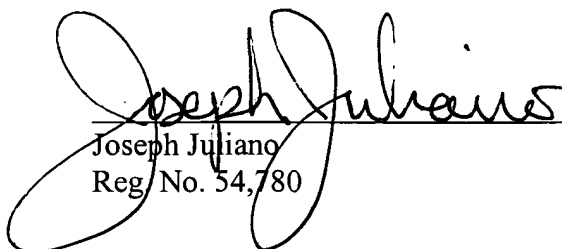
Attorney's Docket No.: 16491-010001

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

3/7/2005



Joseph Juliano
Reg. No. 54,780

Fish & Richardson P.C.
12390 El Camino Real
San Diego, California 92130
Telephone: (858) 678-5070
Facsimile: (858) 678-5099